



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

ROBERT JOSEPH STATZ

APPLICATION NO.: 09/558,849

FILED: April 27, 2000

FOR: HIGHLY-NEUTRALIZED  
ETHYLENE COPOLYMERS

CASE NO.: AD6731 US NA

GROUP ART UNIT: 1712

EXAMINER: D. BUTTNER

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed April 17, 2002. A one (1) month extension of time is submitted herewith. Please consider the following amended claims and remarks:

Claim 7. (amended) A process to make a highly-neutralized, melt-processible ethylene copolymer comprising the steps of

- (a) Melt-blending an ethylene  $\alpha,\beta$  ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid copolymer or a melt processible ionomer thereof with an organic acid or salt of an organic acid, and
- (b) Concurrently or subsequently adding sufficient cation source to neutralize about 100% of the acid moieties of the acid copolymer or ionomer thereof and the organic acid or salt thereof;

Wherein the amount of cation source is in excess of the amount that is required to neutralize all of the acid moieties in the acid copolymer or ionomer thereof and the organic acid or salt.

Please delete Claims 8 and 9.